# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1892
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2007
SUPPLY OF LPG IN THE HIMALAYAN STATES
Bahuguna Shri Vijay

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the quota and supply of LPG cooking gas in the Himalayan States to avoid felling of trees for use of timber for cooking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to encourage the use of LPG cooking gas in preference to timber in the Himalayan areas by providing additional subsidy to the users; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) & (b):- Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the Himalayan States and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by OMCs in accordance with the requirement of customers registered with the LPG distributors.
To ensure that LPG is available throughout the year at all locations including those which are cut off from rest of the country during winter period and/or during rainy seasons, OMCs make special efforts to stock LPG cylinders in these areas.
OMCs have also introduced 5 kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August, 2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urban and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas in the country.

(c) & (d): The Government is giving subsidy on domestic LPG cylinders, all over the country. In the recent years, the international prices of petroleum products have increased manifold but Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not increased the price of domestic LPG. From the Budget, Government provides a subsidy of Rs. 22.58 per 14.2 kg. domestic LPG cylinder, while the OMCs provide a subsidy of Rs.165.36 per 14.2 Kg. cylinder, making for a total subsidy of Rs 187.94 per 14.2 Kg cylinder (during the period April-September, 2007). The Government is also giving freight subsidy for the supply of domestic LPG to the far-flung areas. As on 30.10.2007, the OMCs have suffered under−recoveries of Rs 215.10 per 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder. However, Government and Oil PSUs are absorbing the burden exerted by the high international oil prices.